

Case 47. 60-year-old male grain elevator worker died after being struck by a tote bag of black beans weighing approximately 2000 pounds.

On November 11, 2003, a 60-year-old male grain elevator worker died after being struck by a tote bag of black beans weighing approximately 2000 pounds. Two bean tote bags were double stacked on the floor using a forklift. The victim was walking by the double-stacked bean totes and the top bag fell and landed on him. The tote bags were stored on one side of a narrow 36-inch walkway that had a 24-inch retaining wall. When the tote fell, it struck him and he landed on the retaining wall with his chest. The tote broke and he was buried in beans. A coworker wondering where he was went looking for him. After finding him buried in the beans, emergency response was called. He was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA issued the following “Serious” citation to the employer:

1. The employer did not insure that materials, including scrap and debris were piled, stacked, or placed in a container so as not to create a hazard. (General Provisions, Part 1, Rule 15(1))